

REGULAR MEETING-MANSFIELD TOWN COUNCIL
November 13, 2007

Deputy Mayor Gregory Haddad called the regular meeting of the Mansfield Town Council to order at 7:40 p.m. in the Council Chambers of the Audrey P. Beck Building.

I. ROLL CALL

Present: Blair, Clouette, Duffy (7:45 p.m.), Haddad, Hawkins (8:30 p.m.), Koehn, Paulhus, Schaefer

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- Ms. Blair moved and Mr. Schaefer seconded to approve the minutes of the October 22, 2007 meeting as corrected.

III. MOMENT OF SILENCE

Deputy Mayor Haddad requested a moment of silence in honor of and respect for our troops around the world.

IV. OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC TO ADDRESS THE COUNCIL

Maurice Moriarty, 1289 Stafford Road, addressed the Council regarding the concerns of the neighbors who surround the proposed UConn composting facility. He stated the report the Council received in the packet has numerous redacted sections and promised to forward a complete copy to the members. In discussing the proposal, Mr. Moriarty noted that with the completion of all the phases there would be an enormous amount of material being composed including in the last phase, human waste residue. The neighbors are also concerned that the cost of the facility is being grossly underestimated which could affect the level of review needed to gain approval.

Mr. Clouette reported that at the Town Gown Meeting the issue was discussed and he emphasized to those present that the impact to the neighborhood and public safety issues of fire and odors are of paramount importance to the Council. There will be a public hearing process by both the Department of Environmental Protection and the Department of Public Safety. Ms. Koehn asked that the Town Council and the public be made aware of these opportunities.

V. PUBLIC HEARING

1. Proposed Amendments to the Mansfield Housing Code

Mike Sikoski, 135 Wildwood Road, commented he thinks the inspection program impedes the availability of moderate family housing in Town, and predicted last year when the program was first implemented that it would expand. He feels there is no need for this department as many of the functions could be handled by others. Mr. Sikoski also suggested strict enforcement of other Town ordinances would limit student disruption in the neighborhoods.

Michael Quarto, 45 Old Turnpike Road, commented on the hardship the proposed plan places on long-term renters both financially and personally. If it is an issue of safety, he suggested that all residents of the Town be subject to the inspection process. He questioned why the large apartments in the southern part of the Town are not being inspected and why all apartments need to have their septic system pumped out every two years regardless of use.

Mr. Clouette inquired whether or not there could be a way to limit inspections to when there is a change in renters, thereby limiting the interruptions of lives. Staff was asked to take the comments from the public under advisement and to provide language for the proposed amendments for the next meeting.

The public hearing was closed at 8:10 p.m.

VI. OLD BUSINESS

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2. Mansfield Housing Code, Expansion of Rental Certification Zone

Mr. Clouette moved and Mr. Schaefer seconded to table the issue to the next regular meeting of the Town Council. Motion passed unanimously.

3. Community/Campus Relations

In the discussion of the University of Connecticut Spring Weekend 2007 Report, Ms. Koehn requested an additional accounting of all associated municipal, university and state cost. Mr. Clouette commented that the Council should have a discussion on the need and value of such an accounting prior to asking staff to do so. Member agreed that the issue would be placed on the next agenda.

4. Community Water and Wastewater Issues

No action.

Deputy Mayor Haddad requested that Item 8 be moved as the next order of business. A motion to do so was made by Mr. Clouette, seconded by Ms. Duffy and passed by all.

5. Issues Regarding the UConn Landfill

No action

6. Grant Accountant Position

Mr. Schaefer moved and Ms. Blair seconded, to increase the existing part-time accountant position to full-time, resulting in a staffing level of two full-time accountants (2.0 FTE) within the Department of Finance effective January 1, 2008.

Both the Finance Committee and the Personnel Committee have reviewed and

support the proposed position.

Motion passed unanimously.

7. Stone Mill Road/Laurel Lane Bridges

Mr. Hawkins moved and Mr. Paulhus seconded to approve the following resolutions:

Replacement of the Stone Mill Road Bridge.

WHEREAS, the Town of Mansfield has published a legal notice display ad, mailed a news release to a number of officials and agencies, and mailed a formal letter to abutting property owners, announcing a public informational meeting for the proposed Replacement of the Stone Mill Road Bridge, Project #77-213 and

WHEREAS, a public informational meeting was held on October 22, 2007 at the Town office building from 7:30 p.m. to 8:15 p.m. at which meeting residents had an opportunity to voice their concerns and

WHEREAS, the Windham Region Council of Governments has selected this project as a regional priority and has agreed to utilize federal funds for right-of-way and construction activities; and

WHEREAS, the Mansfield Town Council has considered the concerns of the residents from the public informational meeting and finds that the proposed Stone Mill Bridge replacement project is in the best interest of the Town of Mansfield and will promote the health, safety and general welfare of its residents and provide for convenience and safety of the motoring public.

WHEREAS the Town of Mansfield, based on the above information, and by virtue of this resolution, hereby fully supports the proposed project and authorizes its proceeding through the design stage.

Replacement of the Laurel Lane Bridge.

WHEREAS, the Town of Mansfield has published a legal notice display ad, mailed a news release to a number of officials and agencies, and mailed a formal letter to abutting property owners, announcing a public informational meeting for the proposed Replacement of the Laurel Lane Bridge, Project #77-214 and

WHEREAS, a public informational meeting was held on October 22, 2007 at the Town office building from 7:30 p.m. to 8:15 p.m. at which meeting residents had an opportunity to voice their concerns and

WHEREAS, the Windham Region Council of Governments has selected this project as a regional priority and has agreed to utilize federal funds for right-of-way and construction activities; and

WHEREAS, the Mansfield Town Council has considered the concerns of the residents from the public informational meeting and finds that the proposed Laurel Lane I Bridge replacement project is in the best interest of the Town of Mansfield and will promote the health, safety and

general welfare of its residents and provide for convenience and safety of the motoring public.

WHEREAS the Town of Mansfield, based on the above information, and by virtue of this resolution, hereby fully supports the proposed project and authorizes its proceeding through the design stage.

The motion to approve passed unanimously.

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VII. NEW BUSINESS

8. Proclamation in Honor of Alan R. Hawkins

Mr. Schaefer moved and Ms. Blair seconded, effective November 13, 2007, to authorize the Mayor to issue the attached Proclamation in Honor of Alan R. Hawkins.

Motion passed unanimously.

Deputy Mayor Haddad asked the members of the Town Council to join him in the reading of the proclamation in honor of Council Member, Alan Hawkins.

Mr. Hawkins thanked his fellow Council members and stated his time on the Council was enjoyable, thought provoking and fulfilling. He has admired the Council's ability to discuss a variety of issues and come to consensus decisions. Mr. Hawkins thanked his wife for all her support and help. He could not have done all of it without her. He also thanked his daughter for pitching in at home when he was not able to be there.

Town Manager, Matt Hart, on behalf of the entire staff thanked Mr. Hawkins for his work, commenting that he was a model Councilperson always prepared and thoughtful. Mr. Hart also thanked Mr. Hawkins personally for his support and guidance noting that he has learned much from him.

9. Local Capacity Building Grant

Ms. Blair moved and Ms. Koehn seconded, effective November 13, 2007, to authorize the Town Manager, Matthew W. Hart, to submit an application to the Early Childhood Education Cabinet and the William Casper Graustein Memorial Fund for grant funding.

Motion passed unanimously.

VIII. QUARTERLY REPORTS

IX. DEPARTMENTAL AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

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In response to a question from Ms. Koehn, Mr. Clouette relayed the information that was presented at the Town/Gown meeting regarding financing for the 1A building. The goal is to keep the rents in the new building low for the existing tenants. A number of ideas have been suggested including some possible ways for the Town to

assist. Members asked if there might be ways to help that would specifically benefit the existing tenants. It was agreed the issue would be an item on a future agenda.

X. REPORTS OF COUNCIL COMMITTEES

Mr. Schaefer reported the Finance Committee met and reviewed the Quarterly Report, which will be presented to the entire Council in the next packet. They also received new financial information on the Community Center, which they will review at their next meeting.

Mr. Haddad reported the Personnel Committee met recently to discuss issues surrounding the subject of tonight's executive session

Mr. Clouette reported that Rebecca Fields from the Housing Authority will meet with Tom Callahan from the University to discuss the issue of graduate student housing and the Mansfield Housing Authority.

XI. REPORTS OF COUNCIL MEMBERS

Mr. Hawkins reported on a meeting of CCM's Public Safety and Homeland Security Subcommittee where the importance of fire training was discussed.

Mr. Paulhus and Mayor Paterson attended the Veteran's lunch at the Senior Center.

Ms. Koehn reported the Clean Energy Team is looking for 20 families to participate in home energy audits. The Committee is subsidizing and promoting the program. The cost for the audit is \$75.00; the usual cost is \$200.00.

The Strategic Planning Committee is still looking for volunteers, especially younger citizens.

XII. TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

Maria Capriola, Assistant to the Town Manager, thanked Sara-Ann Chaine and member of the Recreation Department for all their work on the reception for UConn President Hogan.

XIII. FUTURE AGENDAS

Mr. Clouette met with Town Planner, Greg Padick, PZC Chair, Rudy Favretti and Town Manager, Matt Hart to discuss a task force on housing issues. Due to the advent of a Strategic Planning Process and the increase on the staff workload it was suggested that this initiative be postponed. The issue will be discussed at a future meeting.

XIV. PETITIONS, REQUEST AND COMMUNICATIONS

- 10. CCM re: (1) Initial Survey Responses for Top Ten Municipalities Most Impacted by School Construction Bonding Impasse, (2) Town-by Town Update on School Construction Payments Past Due for August, September and Due in October
- 11. CCM Legislative Update re: DECD Regional Forums on the Connecticut

Economy

12. CCM Legislative Update: re State Bonding Compromise Passed
13. Community Uconnections "Supportive Girl Talk" Provides Summer Fun
14. Hartford Courant Farmlands Forever - 10-08-2007
15. League of Women Voters of Connecticut 2007 Fall Conferences
16. Proposal for the UConn Compost Technology Center
17. Registrar of Voters re: Voting District 1
18. State of Connecticut Department of Education re: New Requirement to Publicly Bid Contracts for School Construction Architectural or Construction Management Services
19. M. Jodi Rell re: Emergency Operations Plan

Mr. Paulhus moved and Ms. Blair seconded to move into Executive Session.

Motion passed.

XV. EXECUTIVE SESSION

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Personnel – Performance Review
Included: None

Water and Waste Water - Discussion of Proposed Contractual Matter
Included: Maria Capriola, Assistant to the Town Manager and Director of Finance,
Jeffrey Smith.

XVI. ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Blair moved and Mr. Paulhus seconded to adjourn the meeting.

Motion passed unanimously.

Gregory Haddad, Deputy Mayor

Mary Stanton, Town Clerk